

HENRY DARGER -

"THE VIVIAN
GIRLS
IN CHICAGO"

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VOLUME
FIVE

Microsystems, Inc.

were quite as real
human beings as
they were to Gladys,
and the eight little
girls would play
happily together
by the hour.

Then when Gladys
did find out how fond
her friends were of
books she suggested
reading aloud to her
and the proposal was
received with such
gratitude that her
vain little soul was
flattered and from
then on one of
her greatest amuse-

I indeed Father Carnew had written to the archbishop a letter such as he had never received before and never would again. He began it by writing of what he heard about those Armenian children. What they were what they desired so strongly and so on. He asked him to come and see the child. None of them were the most

unheard of children ever born. Then he told just what had occurred all about their claimed sunless life their desire for communion without confession and other events.

Now the archbishop answered by return mail that it was impossible for him to quit his duties so suddenly and come to see them.

The going to communion without confession story surprised him greatly but he hoped such a crazy nonsense would be a thing of the past before his letter was received.

Meantime I those children refused to go to confession first and still insisted they were no unrepentant fathers Carney would

do well to write the authorities and have those children committed to some home for the feeble minded. And for example the archbishop said he had no intent even of making a special trip to St Patrick's School from Evans ton just because some children claim they never sin. What was more no such children had never

been known or seen
like that in the
world that nobody
not even the great-
est saints were
like that and if
such children were
in Chicago like
that now, they
were either too
remiss in mind
to sin, or were
lying or were
weak and

Father Carney
should settle
with them at
once if this
were impos-

ible he could get
the members of
the juvenile Court
to help them.
Or he could have
them examined
to see if the
spirits did not
possess them for
no such extraor-
dinary children
so holy ever
existed or will
exist.

1525

his little girl so happy
and listened with real
interest to her detailed
account of the real per-
fections of the little
Vinnians, but it so hap-
pened that he did not
see them himself
until three days
after their first ac-
quaintance with Gladys.

When coming home
one afternoon rather
earlier than usual
he found the nine
children together
in the parlor.

One of the little
Vinnians was at

the piano softly touch-
ing the keys and
trying to pick out a
simple tune that a
hand organ had been
playing in the street.
"Oh papa here's
Pennrod and his sis-
ters. I do want you
to see them so
much!"

Mr Wentworth
smiled, but his
glance was very
kind as it rested
on the sweet faces
with those big
blue eyes and
wonderfully strange

1327

golden hair.

They had risen at once on his entrance, and now stood blushing and even trembling a little.

To them Mr Wentworth was the great and omnipotent power in whose hands rested their fate consisting their success in Sesarman's haunted house.

Sittle did they dream that Mr Wentworth with his mind full of other things had for a time

forgotten the incident of little Margaret's horrid phenomenon. He took Jennies hand very kindly, and told her he was glad to see her and her brother and sisters and that he had heard a great deal about them from his little daughter.

Then his eyes wandered to the open piano and he then inquired:-

"Were you not playing when I came in?"

Jennie blushed more than before

9529

and looked decidedly embarrassed.

"Oh we ~~ss~~-sure can play any musical instrument that's made," she said; but just now I was trying to remember a tune. The hand organ was playing outside."

"That is more than most of us can do," Gladys said. Mr Wentworth, "Are you fond of music?"

Jennie's face brightened.

"Oh yes indeed!"

she said eagerly "I love it dearly, & my sisters".

"You ought to take music lessons," said Mr Wentworth looking interested. He was passionately fond of music himself, and it was a source of deep regret that so far Gladys had not appeared to care so much about it especially studying it. I met a young blind lady at a friend's house

9531

the other day who
played remarkably
well on the piano"

"We take music
lessons?" said Gem
mie seriously.

"Why yes,
why that's absurd"
grinned Pernod.

"Why?"
"We could teach
it instead" declared
Gemmie. "We all can
play beautifully
too and also sing."
We surely could do
teaching but you see
we couldn't afford
the time but any-

day you would like us
to entertain you we
will gladly consent"

Mr Wentworth said
a few more pleasant
words but then went
away up stairs but
he did not forget
the little incident.

It was on the next
day being Saturday
and in the morning
that Gladys and
Sarah made their
(dis)appearance
appearance at the
haunted Seese
man mansion
at a much earlier

1533

hour than usual. It
was still very cold
through April.

"We come to take
you home with me
to spend the whole
day". Gladys announced.
"It's my birth-
day you know and
we're going to have
a perfectly lovely
time. I'm the first
place we're going
out in the carriage
and I'm going to
stop at Sears
toy store to buy
my birthday
present from papa."

He gave me fifty dollars
this morning and then
gave me thirty five
dollars more and told
me to buy just what
I liked with it. I've
decided to get a doll
with a trousseau and
with the money
left after that, we
can stop at the
phonograph place
on the way home
and get some new
records.

Then you're com-
ing home to lunch
with me and
our cook is going

9535

to make a beautiful
birthday cake with
icing and candles
and everything,
and after lunch and
this is the best
part of all papa has
got ten seats for
Floradona and you
little Virnians and
I anah and I are
all going. Wont that
be splendid?"

"Oh" gasped Vio-
let and her sis-
ters together and
positively could
not say another
word, so much

pleasure all crowded
into one day fairly
took away their breath.
"Papa said you all
must go be cause
you're all so fond
of music" Gladys
went on "he's just
crazy about music
himself you know
and he wants
me to take lesson
next winter, but
oh dear I know I
can never learn,
it must be
awfully hard"
"But you'll try
to learn won't you"

9537

said Angeline. A little
anxiously "I don't think
it can be so very
hard, that is if you
love it the way I
and my sisters do.
We found it easy to
learn."

"I don't know" said
Gladys indifferently
"I like to hear music
very much maybe
even more than
you do. But study-
ing is different
If I don't like to
study it I sup-
pose I shall stop"
"But if it would

famous
ed a
ortable.
shall
rather
don't mean
don't. But
y and
lings.
be here
riage
few
id we've
lot to
morn-
more was
e sub-

ject of Gladys music
lessons, but perhaps
those few words of
Angelines had not
fallen on quite such
barren ground as
Sarah who had
listened with an
approving countenance
had imagined for
several times
that day. They re-
cured to Gladys
memories and that
evening when she
was bidding
her father good
night, she threw
her arms around

7341

his neck and kissed him with more affection than usual.

Up "Oh papa dear she exclaimed feeling half inclined to cry though she could not have told why "it's been such a nice birth day and the Viniars are such lovely little angels and now that I'm ten I'm really going to try to like less on better." Perhaps that birth day was the hap-

pier of all those first happiest days to Penrod and his sisters.

) the visit to the toy shop, the delicious lunch and oh best of all the fascinating operetta with its gay pretty music

) the Viniars scarce spoke during the performance but sat drinking in every note of music with rapturous enjoyment.

) they were indeed living in a beautiful new world from which they did

93-43

not emerge untill they had left the theatre, and were on their way home.

"Wasnt it nice?" said Gladys as Sarah closed the carriage door.

Then Jennie and the others came back to reality with a start.

"Nice?" they all echoed.
"It was too beautiful indeed" added Jennie.
"We didnt know there was anything so lovely in the world."

"Gladys laughed,

93-44

"How you do enjoy things dont you?" she said. most patron
ingly "didn't you ever go to a music theatre before?"

"No never" said Anne Geline "and movies we shun" and they were silent for several minutes untill Gladys who liked to talk much better than to think interrupted.

"What are you thinking about?"

"I was just won
dering" said Jennie

9548

smiling "whether there are any people in the world outside of our own country as happy as we are?"

Gladys opened her eyes wide in astonishment at this novel idea.

"Why of course there are" she said. "There must be lots and lots."

But Jemmy, are you little Tyrants always happy?

Don't you wish you could do things

and feel cross because you can't?"

Jemmy's bright face was just a little wistful as she answered.

"We can't help wishing for things sometimes but we are almost always happy."

We used to be happy during our adventure with the enemy as that's fun and very thrilling and no matter what

we went through we liked it as fun, and now since we have known

9547

you and have many friends we've been happier still. We couldn't help it you know when you have been so awfully kind to us"

"What's your principal wishes?" Gladys inquired with natural curiosity.

"Well" said Jennie slowly "I do very often wish that all the world was simpler and that there were no cruel wars. I wish we were finished

with Mr. Sosemans 'crazy' house and we also do wish that we could go back home, to our own country and be back at our military duty just as we used to before we came over here. You don't know how pretty we are when we are all dressed in our beautiful uniforms.

Mrs. Gerry told a general once that we could make the prettiest angels jealous if they

9549

can be jealous.
 That was just before
 we came over here,
 and we have never
 thought when we
 are going back again
 since.

"But don't you
 ever wish for things
 for yourselves too?"
 Gladys asked.

"Oh yes we do,
 sometimes but I
 don't believe we
 ought to. When we
 are princesses and
 got so many nice
 things we can't
 help thinking."

Sometimes how
 lovely it would be
 now, if Mr. Resemann's
 house was cured for
 good, and we could
 go back to our own
 country where we
 rightly belong."

"Don't you even
 wish that you were
 born boys instead
 of girls?"

Jennie shook her
 head.

"We never think
 about that?" She
 said. "We never
 have been boys
 but we can do

9551

almost everything
that boys can do.
But we believe that
girls are somewhat
better than boys, and
so does Pennod more
than we do, and that
girls should be con-
tent to be what
God made them.

Gladys asked no
more questions, but
it was not the
first time that
Jennie's simple
words had made
her vaguely
uncomfortable. It
was not very

pleasing to remember
how often she her-
self wished for things
or wanted them and
was cross and dis-
contented because
she could not have
them and often would
not take 'no' for
an answer and yet
she had so much
more to make her
life bright and
happy than the
poor little Virans!

But all good
things must come
to an end at
last and it was

9355

sisters smiled gratefully

"You're awfully kind," said Violet but I'm afraid we couldn't leave Marjorie and her sister in the Grappling house alone, and they have no parents."

"Then they can come too" said Gladys with reckless hospitality. "Marjorie can sit on the piazza with her sister and read and talk to papa in the evening.

oh yes, and any one of you can play on the piano too, just as much as she likes."

The faces of the little Virnans shone with pleasure,

"That would be just too beautiful for words" Angeline said but I don't know whether Marjorie or Margaret would like to come or not. Marjorie does not know your papa you see."

"Well she'll get acquainted with him

95-5-8

if she came would
nt she?" said Gladys
laughing "but you're
to come anyway
whether Marjorie
or Margaret does
or not."

The Vinars
said nothing and
Gladys chattered on
about the pleasures
in store for them
all. The next
two April days flew
by all too fast
and all too soon
came the morn-
ing when Gladys
ran in next door

95-5-9

through the rear for
the last time to say
good bye. The express
wagon was at the
door and some of
the servants had
already left with
the morning van.

Gladys was in
the gayest of
spirits and kissed
Pernod and his
sisters with real
affection. As for
the little Vinars
they said very little
and Jennie clung
tight to her friend
and tried hard

95-60

to choke down the
big lump in her
throat.

"We shall never
never forget how good
you've been to us".

she faltered "We shall
keep thinking about
you all the time
and when you come
back next winter
and if we are still
here -".

"But we shall
see each other
long before next
winter" interrupted
Gladys "You're com-
ing to Evanston

95-61

as soon as possible
even Sarah talks about
it. But I can't stay any
longer, papa said?
must only say good
bye and then come
right back, we're going
in a little while.
Good bye you precious
little things and
don't forget you're
coming very soon"

In another
moment the bed
room door had
closed behind
the visitor and
the little Viriams
to keep from

9563

being lone some
with out her prepared
to meet their dreaded
obstacles once more.

Chapter 69
Two letters
at covington.

836

It was six o'clock
on a very chilly
evening in April
For a week things
at Mr. Geermans
house took a turn
from bad to worse,
and he carried un-
bearably torment-
ing and all those
tenants who had
still stayed, now
among them who
could possibly
man age to do
so were hurrying
away from the

95-65

neighborhood to
three or four blocks
further away.

Most of Miss Scott's
boarders, scared or un-
bearably annoyed by
the strange loud noises
and the visible blood
or spine chilling
phenomenons had
also gone away, and
Miss Scott herself
was talking of just
taking a run up
to Northern Wis concin-
to spend the com-
ing summer with
a married sister.
The fact was she

95-66

too was getting to scar-
ed to remain.

All the other houses
in the mean by blocks
were closed or ten-
anted only by people
and their families
who were of the
kind of Irish, who
defied demons and
all hell with them,
while Pennad and
his sisters, with the
Octopus and the other
helpers stayed it
out desperately
through the long chill
April days trying
vainly to find some

9567

way by God's keep
to conquer the spiritual
foe, and hoping im-
patiently for the
arrival of the rest of
the parts that belong
to the Paloo.

Demon fighting
so severe as this
really did not agree
with Pernod or his
sisters, and their
mothers heart ached
with an almost
unbearable ache as
she saw the little
faces she loved so
clearly grow paler
daily, from eve-

exertion and lack of
sleep and rest, and
noted the weary lan-
guid note in the
sweet voices, that still
had no word of com-
plaint to utter.

She and others
and even their father
and Evans and lots
of school children,
the latter by mail
had begged them
to desist and let
Sesemann house
go to its fate,
and Sesemann
too, had telephoned
the same thing

9569

very often, but though they would have liked to do so the very worst way, they were afraid to give it up, for consequences, that may follow.

On this particular evening a wet chill one, their mother was feeling more tired and anxious than usual.

Things that day had been extremely severe at Lese- mans house, the worst on record.

riggels for us were her and not be fit her-ed the to come speak to e passed n daughters his has wet day it?" she ed as ness step- o the hick did fight fully

warm after the chill and wet of the rain swept street "you look just about ready to drop too, from lack of sleep in Leesmans Ranshee house, you poor thing." "I'm rather tired" the Empress admitted "but I suppose I ought not to mind possessed houses, as I had experience with three others before finding this one, though this is the far worst" even

9573

"Well those poor little daughters of yours mind it whether you do or not," said the land-lady a little sharply.
"Those little girls do not look a bit well and one of them, Angeline I believe, hardly tasted her lunch to day. I brought them each a hot glass of milk and some cookies this afternoon thinking they might like something, risking the danger of the poltergeists.

9574

but when I went back in the 'crazy' house to take away the glasses and plates ^{the} half an hour ago, I found Angeline had eaten only one cookie, though she did drink the milk. Can't you manage to take them off somewhere for a little change, so they can forget these polter geists for a time? It would do them all the good in the world if you.

9575

The Empress shook
her head sadly.

"I'm afraid not at
present" she said.

"They are afraid to
give it up for fear
of awful conse-
quences, and a law
suit. They intend
to rely on the
Paloo. with the
coming of the other
parts, and even
then I scarcely
know - do you really
think my little
daughters are ill,
Miss Scott?"

"Well, I don't say

9576

they are exactly ill
said the landlady
touched by the anxious
expression on the ~~large~~
mother's face, "but a
change would be a
splendid thing for them.
If my mother
did not have such
a big family of
her own, that she
never has room
for any? I declare
I'd take the little
princesses to Kall-
amazoo with me
next week. I'm
only going to be
away a few months."

9577

but it would be bet-
ter than nothing But
if I can I'll take them
to Northern Wisconsin
next week for two
days. But what is the
consequence you speak
of?"

"You are very kind" said the Empress holding out her hand, and Miss Scott saw that her lip was trembling. "I must try and manage to give my little daughter a chance to get away from that crazy place."

for a while. I can't see
just at present how
it is to be done be-
cause of the consequences
and the consequences
are that if they go
away the evil spirits
will follow and
torment them where-
ever they go."

"That's all nonsense," said Miss Scott. "People are only trying to fool you."

Then the Empress
hurking her hurried away towards
the Grappon house
while the landlady

9579

went off to see about dinner.

Violet and her sisters were sitting by the big attic window Jennie having a low rocker by another window with a bible on her lap but as the bible was now being read for the third time it was only natural that a little of the original interest, caused by disengagement and change over the continual resistance

95-80

of the evil spirits should have worn off and at the moment when the Empress entered the attic Jennies busy fingers were resting idly on the pages before her, and she was leaning back in her chair with a listless tired expression on the pale little face that wrung her mother heart to see:

Her sisters arose at their mothers approach, but Jennies and their greeting

9581

were just as bright
and eager as of old, and
when the Empress had
taken off her hat they
all sat down together
just as they had done
not long ago when
Gladys had first
made the acquaintance
of the little
Vivian girls in the
Western crazy
Granny house?"

"Have you all been
very uncomfortable
to day in this crazy
old house all by
yourselves my pets?"
the Empress

9582

asked anxiously
laying her hand
on Jennies.

"Oh no; not so very ^{large}.
Everything was pretty
crazy during the
hours the sun was
on this side of the
house, but we kept
in the attic, not pay-
ing any attention
to the noises and
other phenomena
and what do you
think, some of
us really fell
asleep despite the
hub-bub downstairs
and had quite a
long nap," said

9583

a lovely dream too.
 I thought you and Gladys
 and my sisters and
 Pennrod and I were all
 in Heaven together
 and you were driving
 the horse pulling
 a golden chariot and
 our laps were full
 of lovely heavenly
 flowers.

Oh it was such
 a nice dream and
 when I woke up
 such a pleasant
 thing happened.
 I was just feeling
 so thirsty and
 wishing I could

have a nice drink
 of something cold.
 When in came Miss
 Scott with lovely
 (gas) glasses of lemonade
 on a tray and
 some cookies. Wasn't
 it kind of her?"

"Very" said the Empress
 rather absentedly "child-
 ren" she added after
 a moments pause
 "do you know? we
 made up my mind
 to write to the Pope
 of Rome about this
 dreadful house?"
 can write in Italian
 The little girl gave

9587

ent before had been so pale and languid from lack of sleep and rest.

"Why don't you want me to write dear?" she questioned wonderingly.

"Because - because; oh never mind only please wait a little while longer"

Her mother smiled
"I suppose you think that just as long as we are not driven out by the banks there is always hope that we may win

9588

out yet" she said stroking Jennie's cheek "Well I will wait another week, but I know it is only postponing the hopeful, or the end day" even if things wasn't so very bad. And children don't you think it rather strange that you've never heard a word from Gladys since she went to Evanston?"

"Gladys hates writing letters" said Angeline apologetically
"She told us she never wrote when she could

95-89

possibly help it."

"Didnt she say she was going to ask you little girls and Pennrod to visit her?"

"Yes and I told her we could not possibly go and leave Marjorie and her sister in this place all alone."

Their mother looked a little troubled.

"I wish you had not said that dear"

"Why not?" inquired the little girls together in a tone of astonishment "They're orphans and you would not

95-90

want us to go and leave them by themselves in this dangerous house?"

Her mother's fingers tightened on the little hand but she answered with forced cheerfulness.

"And why not my dear little pussycats? Do you think that Marjorie and Margaret are of such vast importance that they couldn't possibly exist a week or two without you and me?"

"We're also afraid the devmons will really

95-91

follow after us and make trouble for the even though words said violet simply.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, and so they should more than we can tell" added Catherine.

"I doubt that" said their mother furiously.

"And yet if I knew we would be happy about the change and it would be doing you good I know you should feel very happy about it." We would like to go wouldn't we?

95-92

"we?"

"Oh yes we should like to very much if we knew Mary or Margaret were safe and having a good time too. We have come to love Gladys and it would be beautiful to be in the country and hear the birds and smell the flowers and see every thing that grows there but we couldn't enjoy it unless we knew that those two little girls were safe and happy."

9593

"And they will be safe and happy" said their mother quickly. "And I don't know of anything that would make us all happier just now."

Perhaps Gladys may forget about the irritation, but if she really does ask us, children, dear, we should very much like to accept.

"But we've never been away from Margaret and Marjorie for even so long," said Catherine

9594

with a little quiver in her voice.

"I know that my pet but you don't have to part with them, when the time comes, if Gladys invites them too and

I know you told me she said she would and it would make me so happy to see the bright color in your cheeks again (McC.) We should feel safe about our sisters too, that Sarah is a good, conscientious woman, and we should have no fear in

9595

trusting ourselves to
her care and watch
watchful ness."

Before any of the
little girls could answer
there was a knock at
the door.

Jennie flew to the
door.

"Set me open it"
she cried eagerly "you
seem so comfortable!
I dont want you to
move!"

She returned in a
moment with two
envelopes in her
hand.

"Two letters mother.

9596

Who do you suppose
they come from?"

"One is for you" said
her mother taking it
from Jennie's outstret-
ched hand "and yes -
I'm sure its from
Gladys' mother worth
for it has the Evans
box post mark."

"Oh please do read
it to us" cried Angelina
to whom the receipt
of any sort of letter
was an event of
the most considerable
importance. The
Empress tore open
the envelope and
read aloud:

9597

9598

Evanston Ill April 10

1912

Dear little Virgans
and your good mother and
father.

I want you all to come
to Evanston next week to
stay as long as you really
can and to stay at the barn-
shear of Seesemann house
for a time.

Bring Marjorie and
Margaret with you. Let
me know what day you
can come and Sarah will
go to the city for you
and bring you all here.
Your train fare will
be at papa's expense,

he said so himself and
Sarah will have the tickets
for you.

I have a pony here,
and other pets and we
will have lovely times
together I am very lonely
and papa says he will
be very glad when I have
some one to play with.

I hate writing letters
so I won't say any more
so please write as soon as
you can and tell me
what day you will come.

Sarah says to tell
your in other she will
take care of you all. I
think Sarah likes you

better than she does most
people Good bye till you come
From your loving
friend,

Gladys Mortimer
Wentworth

The Empress looked
up from the letter
with a smile.

"How odd that it
should have come
just now while we
were talking about it"
she said. "We would
really like to go
if you knew it
would make us all
happy wouldn't you?"

and will be
last of next
month I think
it off before
others all
my after,
we did
in, fighting
his house
must man-
some new
the other
mnie ex-
with a sud-
flection?
elling all
ring it to

The Empress held out
her hand rather in-
differently, her cor-
respondence was not
very interesting now-
a days. Next morn-
ing however her
manners changed and
she exclaimed in great
astonishment

"Why its from Wenth
worth and Company Pub-
lishers perhaps Gladys
father (or) has written
to ask our consent to
our going - how very
nice of him - isn't
it?"

The little girls made

9603

8608

no answer at the words
Wentworth and Company
Publishers their hearts had
given one great big bound
and then almost seem-
ed to stand still - The
Empress tore open the
letter, read the first
line then uttered a low
astonished cry and
sank back in her
chair trembling from
head to foot.

"What is it oh what
is it? Oh mother dear
what does it say?"
gasped Jennie sei-
zing the paper, which
her mother in her

surprise had let fall in
her lap.

"It's - its about Mr
Rosemann's crazy house
children, why Jen, how
can it be, I never sent
any petition for help
there to, a publishing
company."

"Read it read it" cried
the little girls together
almost beside them -
sever with impatience
With an effort the
Empress recovered her
self possession took
up the letter again
and read in a shaking
voice:

9605

9606

Dear Madam

In reference to your petit
ion for help concerning the
'ghost' house of Mr. Desemans,
which you sent to us through
our President Mr. Lawrence
Wentworth some few
days ago our investigators
have been there recently
looking over everything,
and we would say that we
too have given the place
careful examination, and
are so impressed by
the frightful condition
of the magnificent place,
that by special wire
less we have notified
the Pope at Rome who

has sent a delegation of
famous Bishops over here
who will be very glad to
hear from you further
on the subject when
they arrive. They positive-
ly can do something
to help you and your
friends clear the place
and will be immensely
pleased to make some
satisfactory arrangement
with you in regard to
fighting the French most
successfully.

Awaiting your reply
we remain,

Wentworth and
Company Publishers

9607.

And I did it? did it all" robbed Jennie her arms tight around her mothers neck. "Oh mother dear I'm so happy, I didnt know anybody in the world could be quite so happy. It was my secret. Marjorie's sister Margaret saw some awful phenomenon which she could not explain, and was so scared she came in to us for protection and I was so unhappy about it I couldnt begin to tell my

sisters or you. Gladys was here when Margaret was so awfully frightened and she felt so sorry, she said she would bring her to her father and get some explanation. It was such a relief for I knew every one would think nothing unusual had happened and would keep a hoping all the time all was all right and Gladys said she would ask her dad

9609

9610

85

to be sure he would do something for Margaret and help us out. Gladys father told us after his interview with Margaret to keep away from the empty dining room on the second floor where Margaret saw the horrid phenomena. Oh I've been so excited about it and when you said you were going to write to the Pope of Rome we were frightened

badly. Oh mother darling I don't know what makes me cry but I'm so proud and so happy too I don't think I know quite what I am doing.

It was more than two days now since that memorable never to be forgotten evening, and in the meantime many interesting and wonderful things had happened.

In the first place the delegation of

9611

9612 8

Bishops were really coming, and if the next coming battle against the fiends proved as much a success as the very publishers confidently hoped there was a prospect of fame and honor and glory for the daughters and sons such as the good Empress had never dared ever in her most sanguine moments to hope for.

(17) for Pennad and

his sisters, their hearts were almost bursting with just pride and happiness. But it would be sometime yet before the delegation of Bishops from Rome, would be in Chicago as the steamer they were on were yet 1000 miles out at sea, and mean while the Empress being a sensible cautious woman dared not run the risk (to) of pressuring things to over presumption against

9613

the poltergiests of
Sesemann's crazy house
and not withstand-
ing all the entreaties
of her children was
firm in her deter-
mination to let the
Grappin house go to
the 'dogs' for a few
weeks as long as
she and her daught-
er and son stayed
with Gladys in the
city of Evanston.

"After it is all
over we will take
a nice long holi-
day before you
return to camp life."

26/8 8^o
and annoy the enemy
again" she said "and
too when we are fin-
ished with Mr Ses-
mann's house, we will
go off to Abbreannan
to gether and be hap-
py in annoying the
Yankees as
long as the war goes
on.

Miss Scott thinks
we may be able to
get the demons out
of this house before
summer is over, she
is going to inquire
about it for us when
she goes to the Holy

9617

or so of the little
Vinnians would steal
away by herself, and
indulge in a little
quiet cry.

"I know I'm very
silly" Jennie expla-
ned to Sarah when
the mad came upon
her suddenly while
thus engaged one
afternoon "but you
see it's just the
time when we would
start our spat with
the evil ones of
Mr. Geesmans house,
and - and we
were always there

and I can't help being
afraid they'll take
advantage of our absence
just even a little ev-
er^{ge} though Miss Scott said
they wouldn't and the
place will be worse
than ever when we
go back."

And on this par-
ticular day too Jennie
Jennie wrote a long
letter to her absent
father. It was writ-
ten in the Queen-
Abbeyannian lan-
guage and to us
people of the United
States they appear

9619

as the words of Satan
in a Catholic Prayer
book, but to her father
those Latin words were
as intelligible as any
ordinary American
writing would have
been, and his hand-
some face brightened
wonderfully.

As he read the
pleasant things that
were continually
happening at Evanston.
How on the second
day Mr Wentworth
had taken the
children for a
sail in his beau-

tiful lake yacht, and
how on the third day
they had gone to Fort
Sheridan to see the
fort and soldiers there,
and not only mak-
ing the excursion into
an all day picnic
but also had created
quite a sensation, and
curiosity among
the soldiers by their
beauty, grace of
manner and the
extraordinary golden
hair.

There was one fact
which Gemmie did
not mention in

9621

9622

8

her letter and that was that two days after her arrival Sarah had received a telegram telling of the serious illness of her older sister, and begging her to come at once.

Sarah was a very conscientious woman, and it was not without a great deal of reluctance that she decided to leave her little charge, but her sister needed her and of course she had to go.

Wentworth was also somewhat disturbed as none of the other servants were particularly reliable, and he knew from experience that his little daughter was not always to be depended upon so far as not getting into mischief was concerned.

He looked rather grave until Sarah with a sudden inspiration suggested that they might send for Miss May.

A telegram was

9623

dispatched, and was speedily answered. Miss May would be glad to come and would be in Evanston on the following morning.

Gladys was delighted she really liked her good natured young governess especially when there was no danger of lessons being suggested, and at present she was not afraid of that as papa had promised to say a word to Miss May on the subject of

9624

8

holidays with the little Vinars

The little Vinars, looked a little troubled,

"I suppose Miss May is very nice," Connie said "but we do like Sarah even if she is a little fussy sometimes, and our father said he was happy about letting us come because he was sure Sarah would take such good care of us and mother? I wonder if it would be wrong if I didn't say anything to father about it? If I

9625

do he will worry." "Of course it wouldn't said her mother and Gladys confidently. "It's too bad about Sarah's mother" Gladys added. "and I am very sorry though she does scold awfully sometimes and it's awful to have your mother sick, but just wait until you see Miss May."

Miss May arrived the very next day and although she was very kind and pleasant

9626

8

and much more inclined to let people do as they liked than Sarah still violet and her sisters, and also their brother found themselves thinking regretfully of the absent maid, and did not agree with Gladys when that young lady remarked that she wished Miss May were going to live with them all the time and that Sarah's mother might require her daughters service

9627

for the rest of the spring and all through summer too. It was a very warm April afternoon and the eight little girls were comfortably settled on the Wentworths broad piazza, Jennie lying in the hammock, her sisters either seated on the steps or on chairs P. S. Mrs. Pennrod playing checkers with Webster George, Angelina and Mary and their sister while Gladys, curled up in a big

9628

8

wicker arm chair read aloud from the road to Oz, all the bright color had come back to her cheeks and if Miss Scott had seen them that day she would have no cause to complain of the children's lack of appetite.

Gladys had been reading aloud for about two hours and a half and her eyes and voice were both rather tired so Harry read on reached the end

9629

of her story, she took - smooths
ed up from her book his after
and indulged in a
mighty yarn.

"That's a very nice
story and I like the
manner in which they 'acksmiths
got away from those 'bother'
'coodliers," said Jemmie, "I wish
but I'm afraid you're grew on
tired."

"Yes I am a little. I have to
I guess I won't read I won-
any more now. What may
shall we do next?" take us
"Would you like to Chicago?"
to play imaginary 'd at
people?" Jemmie that she
inquired.

mped
startling

on they
have to
I won-
take us
to Chicago?"
'd at
that she
ad head-

9632

ache. I wouldn't like to
ask her would you?"
"No? suppose we could
nt. And anyway there
is nt any need. We
know the way, it only
costs twenty cents
there and back, and
we could go just as
well by ourselves.
And you sure have
the say."

"But I thought Sarah
said we couldnt
go alone the other
day?"
"Oh bother about
Sarah, she's just an
old fuss. Of course

its all right for us to go, Chicago is only a little ways it'll take me forty minutes to get to the loop. And you can take care of me as well as any one else come along, I'll get our hats and we'll have some fun you're good sisters and brother can come too if they wish."

But still Jennie looked doubtful.
"I don't think we ought to go without asking Miss May,

and of all Pennrod first" she said with decision "if we go without saying anything, Pennrod and my sisters might be frightened as we have many secret enemies be cause our country is in a war. We must never go any where without telling them first, and look out for Pennrod if you make him angry."

Gladys seemed to consider this a rather

9635

unecessary proceeding but as Jennie being in the right, firmly refused to move, until the governess had been informed, and her brother and sisters too, Gladys finally yielded, and ran up the stairs, to obtain the required permission.

Miss Mays door was closed but in answer to Gladys rather impatient knock, a sleepy voice called loudly "Come in", and as

9366

the little girl entered the room the governess, who was lying on the bed, with a novel and a bottle of smelling salts looked up to inquire

"What do you want Gladys?" was just falling asleep and "I have such a wretched headache."

"I am sorry I woke you up" said Gladys "but I just came to ask if Jennie and I may go to the city for half the day, we're tired of

9637

staying on the piazza
and we can't have the
pony, because he's gone
to be shod."

Miss May laid
down her novel and
took a whiff of the
smelling salts.

"Why yes, I suppose
you may," she said a
little doubtfully. "I
don't believe you'd
better go alone though,
can't Sizzy go with
you?"

"No she's ironing
and any way I don't
want her, she'll
take us to parts

9638

of the city we don't
want to go. Jennie
will take good care
of me, and we'll be
all right."

"Well if you are
with the Virgin angel

I don't really see
what could possibly
happen to you in
the big city. Will
you be very care-
ful crossing the
streets as the auto
drivers don't care
whether they run
you down or not,
and be sure you
don't go to those

9639.

filthy morris. I would go with you myself but my head readily is very bad, and if I keep quiet this afternoon it may be better by dinner time." And Miss May passed her hand wearily across her head.

Gladys readily gave the required promise and also getting the permission from Jennie's brother and sisters flew off in high spirits to get her

hat. Five minutes later the two little girls were on the Evanston Express heading for the big city.

In forty minutes they left the station at Lake Street, and were soon trudging along the street towards Halsted hand in hand in the direction of the west part of the city.

It was really very hot in the sun and Jennie who like her sisters do not like hot

9641

weather and often prefer winter cold not help thinking regretfully of the cool piazza and the hammock, but she was too good natured and too fond of Gladys to make any objections to her friends plans for their amusement.

So she walked on cheerfully, listening to Gladys merry chatter and only remarked when they took a taxicab going west on Jackson

8682

and had been riding for nearly a half hour that where ever Gladys was going seemed rather further off than she had supposed the day they went on their auto.

"There's another place that's even so much shorter" said Jennie but I don't like to take it alone without Pennrod or Evans because it's through Mr. Sesemann property on Jackson Boulevard. Who's Mr. Sesemann?

9643

Gladys inquired.

"Oh don't you know? He's the man who owns the house which is possessed next to your papas property. You know the place yourself and we all know it's the worst most disagreeable place in the world."

"Oh I know now, but didn't think he owned it. I thought Miss Scott did." admitted Gladys.
"Every body's afraid of the property

9644

8

except me and Sarah. They say he never has any hope of any one being able to help him; and that now there isn't a single person that likes him because they blame him for the whole thing."

"Oh the poor old gentleman" exclaimed Jennie "how dreadful! I don't see why every body blames him. It isn't his fault. It must be terribly lonely for him if

9647

is right across the aisle from mine, and yet he looks so worried, and down hearted it makes me sad. Sad

Sunday we had a strange Clergyman Father Winsdale I believe who talked from the pulpit very slowly.

And he preached in such a way about the devils and their way, I was no scared I nearly went under the seat

Siggle our waitress says the spirits have such a dreadful

9648

8

temper she thinks they wouldn't mind killing trespassers with a phenomenon when they're angry.

But here we are at the Rock Island railway station where we get out for a while. Don't you feel its getting cooler and look at the big clouds they're worth watching.

The two children were soon established in a shady nook behind the railroad station

9649

on the street near
where Jackson Boule-
vard turns deep in
the interest in occu-
pation of looking
at the autos and peo-
ple going by.

Then after a while
Gladys suggested going
to pay a visit to Miss
Scott near Sesemanns
which they did.

They had quite a
stay with the land-
lady, and the after-
noon slipped
away without either
of them realizing
the flight of time,

9650

8

untill Gladys sudden-
ly ex El curred with
some anxiety as they
started for the street.
"Why how dark its
getting. It can't be
very late, but the
sun's gone in. I wonder
if its going to rain?"
I thought I heard
a few rumbling sounds
at a distance within
the last few min-
utes " said Connie.
"Do you suppose it
could have been
thunder?"

"I guess we'd better
start for some place

9650

to get a taxi for the Sake Street Elevated Station anyway," said Gladys. "It does look pretty black but if we hurry we will be all right."

They continued on swiftly. It certainly was unusually dark for the time. Gladys was sure it could not be much after five o'clock - but heavy black smoke colored clouds were coming very swiftly from the other corner northwest and they

9650

8

had not taken three steps when the rumbling sound Jennie had mentioned was heard again and this time there was no doubt about its being thunder and lightning flashes were seen northwestward.

A severe April thunderstorm was hurrying forward.

"There really is going to be a shower," said Gladys, hurrying her companion along. "Afraid? Are you afraid of thun-

9652

storms?"

"no, but I shouldn't like to get wet besides wouldn't miss May be dreadfully frightened, and my brother and sisters if we didn't get home before the storm.

Sook at that big wall of ink. black clouds with a rolling with white front coming as if on a big race. Couldnt we take that short way you spoke of?"

Gladys hesitated but at that moment

9653

there came a louder peal of thunder than before, and a sudden thunder wind squall began to blow cool and chilly.

I guess wed better take a chance Gladys said with a nervous glance at the rapidly darkening sky I dont believe the banshees will see us we dont have to pass very near the house.

Do you suppose the evil spirits would really do anything

9654

to us if they did?"

Gladys inquired.

"I shouldn't know for sure about you Gladys, but I shouldn't like to try without sacramentals about me. The demons got such a dreadful temper every one says and we have a big sign warning people to keep out if they value their lives."

"Perhaps we ought not to go in the place alone if the spirits don't allow people" Gladys said a little ner-

9656

ously" was warned once by unseen spirits and they threatened to kill me if I should come in again. I was in here with George Stanislaw and his sister when he ran away and deserted us. But I would not run if I did hear them h coming again".

But Dennis had already turned in at the iron gates enclosed the grounds of Gersmann's haunted property, and fired by the spirit of real

9656

adventure, and not afraid
of the demons she had
no intention of turn-
ing back.

"I don't believe the evil
spirits will see us" she
repeated reassuringly.
"it looks so much like
a big April storm they
will be sure to be in
the house, as I heard
even spirits don't like
to be in rain. We must
not stop on
the way though its
getting blacker and
blacker every min-
ute"

Gladys quickened her

8657

8

pace to a run and she
Jennie spoke, but Jennie
almost cut distance of her
saying "we'll be out of
these grounds in a few
minutes and ours is the
next place. Hurry hear
how it's thundering,
and see that gray in
the distance behind the
black. That's the rain
shroud. You can't run
worth a cent can you?"
she added somewhat
nervously, dragging
Gladys along the ce-
ment side walk
like path.

"No I'm afraid I can't

9658

panted Gladys we
we almoat home".

"Stop a stop a for ze Heavens
sake, both of youse.
Dont go neer zat tree:
For Godz sake stop a, do
youse hear a me. Eet
goin keel you"

At the same mom-
ent there came a very
loud terrible sound
from a big tree only
a few yards away
from them, the
mighty terrible Elm.
It was an awful
moment Gladys
seeing the action
of the tree stepped

in the ground
terver was
n them.
mbered when
lyung at
y in the
f home
moment
e found
lone with
ear the
acting tree
od quite
sting fo
nd n conce
ing what
appened.

e she
stretching

9661

8

out her hand (n) towards
the tree "Jennie what
is the matter with that
tree? Jennie what is
it doing? Oh Jennie please
what is it doing?"

Jennie gave no answer
but gently pushed
her back out of harm
war, as a branch was
reaching for her.

The thunders was
now louder and
neare and the
wind fiercer. Could
it be that the
tree had gone crazy?
Gladys gave a little
frightened sob and

9662

retreated backwards.
She ran back half a dozen steps, then stopped. What was that tree really going to do?

She did not know. Supposed one of the branches of the tree had grabbed her then what would have happened?

It that moment her quick ear caught the sound of steps approaching and believing it was an unseen spirit and remembering

9663

8

the warning of one would have given a terrified shriek and fled at full speed in the direction of the gate, had she not turned around and observed it was a big powerfully looking man approaching rapidly.

"Eet ees a good thing you're two leedle keeds stopped when I told youse," he said. "Deed ze not see ze soign on ze gate wheech w arms of ze dangers heah? On

9664

do youse mean to
deefy ze eerveel speerits
eh?"

The foot steps were close at her side and a big heavy but gentle hand was laid on her shoulder. In the darkness caused by the dark storm clouds he did not recognize the two children.

As the tree grew worse and started stretching its trunk forward Gladys gave one more frightened sob, then resolutely

9665

stood still to defy the peril; - the little girl was no coward.

"I'm very sorry" she faltered, "we wanted to catch a bus before the storm and we thought perhaps, the spirits would not see us for once this way was so much shorter."

"Youse thought the banshees weel not see ze ideed youse? Well zat ees what youse think. Now leesteen and mind youse pay attent ion to what I say,

9666

ze liddle Veernans put
up 3at sign because
to warn foolish reck-
less people to keep
out of zis dangerous
place, and ze de-
mons whether 3ay
like ze sign or not
do justa same een-
teend to have ze
sign respected. too.

3ay possess zis
crazy place and
3are fore wont have
zis grounds torned
kenido ze pooplrick
thorougfare, 3ay
wont have ze
flower beds tramp-

2662

led on and ze fruit
stolen, now for your
own safty sake geet
along as faust as
ze can. I wont let
ze demons do any - b-

thing but I wan
to warn youse two
eef eether youse or
your friend try to
walk across zis path
again, and 3are ses
no one to help
youse, o no boddie
to protecto youse,
youse can be
prep area to take
ze conseem queancer
3at ees all"

9668

The big hand was removed from Gladys shoulder but the children still stood motionless.

"Well who are ye waiting for? Ze lee-dee fools? Do youse wan' ze eerst speerits to keel youse at zay deed to two odder leedle girls or are youse trying to defy them?"

"No oh no sir" gasped Gladys "but you see we are too close to the tree and I dont know

9668

8

what it'll do if we dare pass it again."

"Well I gess youse ill geet paust eet eef youse try now be off before ze deemons geet youse, and dont let ze crazy deemons

"heah an odder word"

He was actually turning away Gladys and Jennie went towards the gate but a phenomenon occurred to it, that would not let it open.

Gladys clasped her hands in despair and Jennie

9700

cried out in anger.
already the first
big drops of the threat-
ened storm were
beginning to fall
and the first loudest
crash of thunder came
pealing along the
sky.

Jack Evans: for it
was him took half
a dozen steps then
turned his head
to see if his
advice was taken.

To his amaze-
ment he saw
that the children
couldn't get the

9700

8

gate open so he
rushed there, and
seized the gate with
one gentle hand.

"I'll open the
gates for you" he
said, but strong
as he was they did
defy him too.

"I'll teach those
demons what it means
to playum treeks
on a me" he be-
gan savagely but
Gladys cut him short

"Oh please please
don't do anything
foolish" she cried
"I don't want anythin'

9702

to happen to you,
besides they won't
obey you, you can't do
anything to them,
and we could go out
some other way, in-
deed we could, but
you see it's starting
to rain now and
we might as well stay
here."

The grip on the
gate loosened, Jack
Evans' hand drop-
ped to his side.

"Want to stay back?"
he repeated "Why
the devmons would
throw you offa

9703

this place as if you
were tramps. But that
needle blend of yours"
he added in a differ-
ent tone "heem een
not scared either
ees she?"

"Oh no sir" said
Gladys "she is Gertrude
a friend of mine,
she's visiting with
me in Evanston
you know. Just now
we were visiting
at Miss Scott's
and we saw a
thunder shower
coming, and we
were running to

703-8

un -
arian
int - age
the - d
sum -
ss -
and
'st - t
try -
at
terred - h
d
es
come -
now - th -
but
fraid - e
ts
ter

9706

and I didn't believe
that the demons -
that is I mean any
kind of spirits would
really do anything
to us."

The stranger made
a queer iron noise in
his throat which
sounded to Gladys
something like a
suppressed chuckle
and he said:

"Well you'll be
caught by them
whether you ex-
pect to be or
not, if I don't
do something, 3 are

2202 8

fore 3 are here madding
for youse to do now,
but come wiz me. It
is beginning to rain
already and I don't
propose to stand heah
and be drenched. Come
along".

Gladys gave a little
frightened sob but
there was no resist-
ing the firm grasp
of Jack Evans' hand
and in another mo-
ment the two child-
ren were being
led rapidly along
the broad cement
walk in the direct-

9708

ion, from that which
she and Jennie had
been walking.

Jack Evans walk-
ed very rapidly, and
Gladys, not Jennie had
hard work to keep
up with his long
strides.

Not another word
did he utter until
they reached the
house, and indeed
they were only just
in time, for as
they stepped on
the piazza there
was a vivid
flash of light-

9209 8

ning, a terrific long
rolling explosion of
thunder that reverberated
the sky the sudden
coming of a blinding
rain, with a hurricane-
like gale, and the
storm burst in all
its fury.

Still in silence
Evans led the child-
ren into the first
floor wide hall of
Mr. Sesemann's crazy
house, the largest
and handsomest
house in all
that section of the
city.

Gladys was panting from her rapid walk and her heart was still beating very fast, but there was certainly some comfort in finding herself under shelter, and with her natural politeness she felt it incumbent upon her to thank her grim companion.

"You're very kind" she said a little timidly "I'm ever so much obliged to you for bringing

"us out of the rain" At this instant there came a crack of thunder that made the windows tremble.

"Get down" said her new acquaintance pushing her not ungently onto a sofa, where she leaned back among the soft cushions feeling all at once very tired and rather queer.

Mr Evans stood for a moment looking down at the little figure with a rather puzzled

9712

curious expression
in his clear gray
eyes. He then looked
at the other and re-
cognizing Jennie, wink-
ed at her, and slyly
motioned to her
to go into the other
room for a few min-
utes, which she
did.

Evans to Gladys
was a very tall
erect gentle man.
"Are yous skeered
of zis house evn
now?" he asked
abruptly.
Gladys gave

9713

8

a little start, the
question came so sud-
denly, but her answer
was prompt enough.

"No sir" she said.
"You no not eh? Youse
were afraid of ze beaq
Elmum tree a few
muneets ago?"

"Not very much?"
said Gladys "I couldnt
help being a little
jist at first, but
ever them I didnt
believe that old
tree would really
do anything bad
to us if we kept
out of its reach."

9714

A grim smile stole
over the grim hand-
some face.

"Eet strikes me zat
youse eer nather a
courageous person"
he said I believe zis
beelding have not
ze reput ation of
being ze very amma-
be old partie all
ze people eer zis
meeborhood seem
to shan eer ze
geeneral opeenion."

"I am only nine
years and six months"
said Gladys col-
laring "I am six

9715

months younger than
Jennie, and then you
see I aint used to tak-
ing care of myself
but the little Virian
girls are, though I didnt
think them fit for that
sort of thing

"3 ay are though, 3 ay
can even take care
of ze odder people. Who h
do youse beelong to
any way? I never
saw youse in ze
meeborhood before
did I?"

"No sir" said Gladys
"But I live next
door to this place."

9716

My parents moved
to Evanston for the
summer and Penrod
and his sisters came
to stay with me for
several weeks, I live
in that mansion
next door west.

"Oh Zat ees eet Well
now I'll tell youse
something. I rather
like ze people
who ees not afraid
of ze evil spirits.

Zay dont eat needle
girls youse know,
even eef zay are
dangerous some-
times, and zay have

9717

no p. over over ze leedle
Veernans, and youse are
all right when wz fern
youse ees perfectly
safe heah. Am joost
as soon as zis shower
ees over, I'll see zat
youse geet home all
right wz Jemmie. Now
shall I call zare house
keeper to looka after h
youse or weel youse
stay heah wz me?"
I think if you
dont mind I'd rather th
like to stay here".

Very good. Youse
ees not asceered af
ze thunner storm

9713

are you?" as at t fury of the moment, a most thunderstorm evening crash filled Gladys was left "ears"

"Oh no sir. not five minutes all when I'm in which she heard "Seems to me y cap, tap, of am ees not afraid, or able come com many things, is along, and a hoots youse was in the wall like somethirf it were going to eat". Jack open and

Gladys said sething unseen was not hungide a slight but her new posse hot wind who seemed to keep her as it odd way reassured by swiftly trying to be her a door kind and hospitind her opened

9716

and am elderly wom am carrying a tray made her appearance at sight of the only occupant of the hall the wom am started back in evident surprise and uttered a little startled exclamation:-

"Good lands, what in the world"

"I beg your pardon" said Gladys rising "I suppose you're surprised to see me. Mr Evans brought me in to wait

9717

till the shower is
over."

"Well I never ejaculated the woman in a rather low voice, then recovering herself she added in a different tone:

"Then I suppose it's for you that Mr Evans ordered the milk and cake. Do you like fresh fruit cake?"

"Yes very much thank you but I'm really not at all hungry."

9718

I told Mr Evans? Wasn't:

"I guess you can eat fruit cake even if you're not very hungry. Here a nice glace of milk too. Help yourself, why what's the matter?" As Gladys put out her hand seemingly with a timid uncertain movement.

"It's nothing" said the child smiling "Only would you mind helping me something unseen I won't let me reach

9719

for it. Something
seems to hold my
arm back".

"Something unseen
holding your hand
back? Oh you poor
little thing" there
was no mistaking
the kindness and
pity in the house-
keepers tone "that
accounts for his
doing it of course,
he's got a kind
heart whatever
people will say"
and in another
moment the
old woman was

9720

on the sofa besides
Gladys holding her
glass and keeping
her with as much
tenderness as though
she had known her
for years.

The fruit cake
certainly was delicious
delicious and the
cold rich milk
was also most re-
freshing. Gladys found
herself relishing
her impromptu lunch
exceedingly. And she
was soon chattering
away to the vivacious
good natured house-

9721

keeper quite as though
they were old friends.

She did not know
that Jack Evans him-
self was standing
in the doorway and
watching her intently
while she talked and
ate and always with
that same curious,
puzzled expression
in his eyes.

Gladys told about
Pernod and his
sisters, of her pets,
about the many
pleasant experiences
(all) of the first
few days about

9722

her parents and her
home next door to
the crazy house.

The house keeper
listened and asked
kind questions, and
every few moments
stole anxious furi-
tive glances at Jack
Evans standing still
and rigid in the door-
way.

The storm was
slackening up by
now, and suddenly
there was a sound
of approaching wheels
and a closed
automobile dashed

9723.

up to the main gate. Mr Evans stepped out onto the piazza as a man came running up the sidewalk path unmindful of any danger he might have faced.

"I beg your pardon (Mr) Evans" said a voice which Gladys recognized as Penrod's. "But my sister and Gladys. Can you tell me where to find them?"

"They're all right" said Evans in

9724

8

his own language which Gladys didn't understand. "I brought them inside out of the rain."

"I am very much obliged to you I am sure" said Penrod hurrying up the steps. "Oh here they are" as Gladys and Jennie, led by the house keeper came smilingly forward. "Well Jennie dear I hope you and Gladys have not tried to snout the demon out by your

9725

selvres?"

"Oh no indeed" said Gladys eagerly and Mr Evans and the house keeper have been so kind. Were your sisters worried about us?"

"They were worried all night," said Evans rather seriously. The storm was terrible at Granston. From what I could make out from Mr Wentworth I gathered there was a probably of you're being found

9726

8

Some where in this neighborhood, so I came for you as quickly as I could. We had better be going now the shower is nearly over and Miss May was on the borders of hysterics when I left."

Pennod spoke hurriedly and there was a sternness and impatience in his manner which even his sister Jennie had never noticed in it before.

The fact was he

9727

had learned enough
of the going on in
the city concerning
the crazy house from
Evanston newspaper
to feel very much as -
shamed of the peoples
conduct and Jennie
and Gladys being
here had not tended
to soothe his feel-
ings.

already poor poor
man was facing
a law suit because
of his haunted
mansion and Pen-
nod inwardly re-
solved that these

9728

people should receive
a lesson that they would
not forget in a hurry
He was going to counter
attack that lawsuit. Gladys
and Jennie turned to
say good bye to Evans
and Mrs Jerry.

"I'm ever so much
obliged to you sir"
Gladys said holding
out her hand after
she had thanked
the house keeper
for her kindness.
"I hope you wont mind
if other people are
afraid, they don't
know this place."

9730

said Gladys
I said abruptly
you can
ze friends
mons do not
e girls even
o object to
on property
as belong
and if youse
walking
way again
m".

"ou" said
slitely "I should th-
come and
again very
Pennod hurr

hurried her amygems
me away into the auto
murmuring at the
same time a few
hurried words of thanks
to his friend Evans.

Gladys was already
in her seat and the
(chaff!) Chauffer was
starting the machine
when Evans who had
followed his guests as
far as the front
gate suddenly called
out in his loud
imperious voice:

"Wait one minute,
you have not
told me your name!"

The auto was already
moving but Gladys
leaned eagerly forward.
"Gladys Mortimer went
worth" she called,
as loud as she could.

Pennrod was very
silent during the
short drive although
he also was very
kind, keeping his
sister and Gladys
well protected from
the rain and often
times expressing
the hope that they
had not been
very much fright-
ened. Jennie did

9733

not suspect the reason for this silence until they had reached home, and Miss May repentant and nervous had taken the two little girls indoors.

Then just as they were all on their way upstairs to dress for dinner Mr Wentworth called Gladys back.

"Come into the library with me Gladys" he said convincingly "I have something very important

9734

to say to you."

Gladys turned and followed her father into the library. What happened during that interview, no one ever knew, but it was a very sorrowful subdued Gladys who came out of that room some twenty minutes later and made this her way slowly and disconsolately upstairs.

Jennie and her sisters were in their pretty little room next to Gladys

9733

nursery brushing
their hair when they
heard their friends step
and all called cheer-
fully:

"Is that you Gladys?
Where have you been?"

"Down stairs with
papa," said Gladys
pausing in the door-
way. Her voice sound-
ed as if she had
been crying and
they all turned in
surprise; Violet com-
ing forth the
hair brush still
in her hand.

"Why Gladys what's

9736

the matter?" she ex-
claimed.

"Nothing" said Gladys
shortly and was
turning away when
with one of her sud-
den impulses, she
changed her mind
came back and threw
her arms around her
friends neck and
burst into a perfect
tempest of sobs and
tears.

"Oh princesses princesses!"
wail the little
girl "I'm so afraid
so dreadfully afraid
"Afraid of what?" I'm

9737

quined Violet in growing bewilderment while her sisters looked on in amazement. "Oh Gladys dear what is it what makes you cry so?"

"Because Mr. Sesemann's house is so awfully bad beyond hope," papa says, and the "Octopus" telephoned papa that the powers of darkness are

taking advantage of y^r Aunt not being there" sobbed Gladys.

"Some of the men who are not

2738

priests and who are supposed to help the Octopus ran off and left him all alone in that dreadful house because they're afraid to stay, and papa says he's ashamed of them. Oh dear oh dear, what shall we do? I don't want them to give up the fight. They'll all be despised."

Poor little violet was terribly distressed.

"Oh don't, please don't Gladys darling" she

9739

pleaded, sobbing too
from sympathy, and
covering her friends
tear wet face with
kisses "no one can't
help running away
when they are so
frightened. And it was
my fault for not
telling them to get
out of the house
until we returned."

"no, no it wasn't"
cried Gladys, hugging
Violet tight.
You and your sisters
and brother are
dear brave beaut-
iful persons and

9740

I love you all better
than anybody in the
world except papa and
mamma. Those men are
cowards, papa said so
and he dreadfully
ashamed of them He
says cowards are always
despised and if all
these men will do
what their post you'll
never win, I know
you won't."

"None of us will
lose out" said Jennie
reassuringly "and
your papa didn't
mean he was
really ashamed,

9744

I'm sure he didn't.
 People can't help being
 afraid of things some-
 times.) And my
 sisters were a little
 bit afraid just at
 first last January -
 but oh Gladys we
 needn't have been,
 we've been in there
 all that time since
 January and the
 demons (~~not devils~~)
 have not even
 injured us, and
 don't fear about
 our Cousin Jack
 Evans.) The demons
 fear him and

9742

to little children
 he's always as nice
 and kind as can
 be, and we've got
 such a nice house-
 keeper too.

Many times he
 talks so loud it sounds
 like he was angry
 when he really
 isn't, that's his voice
 and he can't help
 it, and I suppose
 that's what makes
 people afraid of
 him.

I do say you may
 come and see
 him again and

9743

743

I should was now a well
to very known character
indeed, but throughout the country
protection and stories about its
the spirit many oddities and
always g fierce phenomena
and the violent
deaths of two little
girls, the seven
hobos and the
bad boy were
subjects of a good
deal of gossip.

"Is it really a
very terrible house
papa?" Gladys
inquired that even-
ing after dinner
when she was

9746

comfortably established
on Mr Wentworth's
knee.

Mr Wentworth
smiled.

"It is certainly a place
of awful horror," so
they say," he said.
"But I don't believe
there is anything
very terrible about
it to those who are
not afraid of evil
spirits. And from
what my little
girl tells me Mr
Evans is certainly
a very eccentric
gentleman and

I dont believe the powers of darkness can do anything terrible to him. From what the little Virgins tell us I judge that he too is a saint and has an unusually kind heart and I think Mr. Reseman had a good deal of trouble (about) about that house and that may have caused him to really shun ~~the~~ place.

"What kind of trouble?" inquired Gladys to whom the terrible

Grippin house had become a place of unusual interest and also awe.

"Well because the trouble with the house has caused so many people to move away from mean by districts that the home owners blame him for it and are preparing to sue him. And then many would be brave persons who were supposed to help him

9749.

I am away from the place without doing anything. It has all happened since since the place became possessed but

I have heard about it from people who lived in the neighborhood at the time."

"Did Mr. Seseman always have that house on Jackson Boulevard?" Gladys asked.

"He had it built about three or thirteen years

9750

ago but I believe he bought the surrounding property as well, and that the Grapkin house is a very beautiful manor, and of great importance to society."

"I think Mr. Seseman's house is a very interesting building," remarked Gladys. "I wonder why it got possessed."

"I don't know I'm sure," said Mr. Wentworth. "Although we have been neighbors for years I don't think

I have never exchanged more than a dozen words with the old gentleman. There are different theories as how it got in that condition, but they have no foundation: Gertrude and her sister have given us more information about the place than I have ever had before and show it up in a rather new light too. The building is extremely

dangerous. Yet in spite of it do you still think you would like to call on Mr. Evans again Gladys?" "Yes very much" said Gladys.

The next two days passed very promptly. Gladys too was really very ashamed of the conduct of those deserting the Octopus and his priestly helpers in their work and made many good resolutions.

9.25.3

for the mean future
some of which I
fear many others
would forget before
very long but which
she didn't

She was even
much kinder and
more devoted to Gen-
nie and her
sisters than before
and the little
princesses were very
happy.

There was only
one drawback to
the perfect en-
joyment of
every body and

9.25.4

that was more un-
usal news about
these man's crazy
house and miss
May who objected
about the peace
was in consequence
much less cheer-
ful than at first
and so afraid
that even Gladys
could not feel very
sorry when towards
the end of the week
there came a letter th-
from Sarah say-
ing that her mother
was better and
that she hoped to

9735

to return to Evanston
on Saturday.

"Sarah really is not
so very disagreeable
all the time" Gladys
admitted, on the Sat-
urday evening when
Sarah had once more
taken up household
duties and contrary
to her frequently
expressed opinion
that sweets were very
bad for children,
had brought each
of the little girls
a box of "dilexers"
"I really think
she might be

9736

quite nice sometime
if she didn't talk so
much about those hor-
rid demons going to
burn on you little
Victims. She has no
faith."

"Is she really positive?"
Jennie inquired in
surprise "I thought they
might be the easiest
things in the world
to lick."

"Well Sarah says
you're about the best
people in the world"
declared Gladys
"but she believes
it will take more

than you to throw them out yet I hate them spirits they're so terribly horrid and bad.

The next day was Sunday and as Miss May had left on the previous afternoon and Mr Wentworth had gone to spend a few days with some friends Gladys and the Vinnian children had their breakfast by themselves. Gladys had remarked

before they morning we could down stairs take "the lives of the had heard s's aints and I could noses that read such a lot to that account you" the Vinnians "it would be nice ed it was indeed" asserted extraordnary Emmie "but wouldn't nothing wit make your head pern that usache worse to read very bad, - you had told me you had not ap had a headache" at all sus. "Oh no, it always and had ifeels better out in the made a nc air but when I get ing allusii in a hot stuffy place any dang its dreadful some spirits f' times when I'm there to E in church the mass

9761

and the sermons
makes me forget it
sometimes."

"Do you think Sarah
would take us to
the beach?" Angelina
asked.

"No I guess not, not
unless one of you
little girls asked
her. She'd do more
for you than she
would for any one
else. Won't you tell
her you and your
sisters and Penrod
want to go very
much?"

"Yes if you want"

me to, but why doesn't
she like to take us?"

"Why because its
Sunday of course. She
hates to do things on
Sunday, she says be-
cause they're wrong
but I know its just
because she's got her
best clothes on, and
she's afraid of spoil-
ing them. Oh dear I
do hate Sundays,
any way don't you
though I love to go
most every day."

"No indeed. I think
Sunday is the nice-
st day in the whole

9763

week. Our parents
and we always have
such happy times to-
gether on Sunday."

There was a little
quiver in Jennie's
voice as the recollect-
ion suddenly came
over her that her fat-
her and mother
must be spending
a rather lonely
Sunday to day.

The next hour
passed very quickly.
Gladys described
the boats on the
lake and Violet
and her sisters made

9764

up interesting stories
about the people who
might r be in them.

Then Sarah look-
ing so prim and
solemn in her black
Sunday dress that it
made the Virlans
stare at her made
her appearance.

"Come children
its time to get ready
for church."

The Virlans rose
obediently. Gladys
who had not men-
tioned anything unusual
for the past hour
suddenly gave a start.

9765

"Oh Sarah, something's
wrong? we've heard
that strange sound
again"

"Nonsense" said Sarah
sharply "if you're
imaginining such
stuff as that you
must be getting
ghost ideas into your
head. Evil spirits
from these mams
dont come here.
Otherwise I think
theres nothing
wrong at all Those
superstitious notions
of yours are getting
to be a rather old

9766

story"

Gladys still hear -
ing the strange sound,
again, sprang to her
feet with alacrity, on
guard. The walk to
church was a rather
silent one.

Sarah had very
strict ideas respecting
Sunday be -
havior but had
nothing on the
little Virians who
walked in front of
her hand in
hand, and appeared
the 'little angels'

9267

they really were. Violet and her sisters thought about the "crazy house," and then for some unknown reason or other Jennie suddenly had a very sad feeling, as if she had done somebody a grave wrong. A stranger sadness than she ever had before, since coming to the United States.

The strange unaccountable feeling of sadness increased rather

9268

than diminished, added by a strange unbelievable remorse, when they had reached the church, and she with her brother and sisters found herself settled in one of the pews.

The sound of the organ made her still sadder somehow, though it had never done so before, and before she realized what was happening Jennie felt two big tears slowly trickling down her cheeks.

9769

She dashed them away as quickly as she could but almost before they were dry there were more tears in their place, and the little girl was forced to make a hasty search for her handkerchief.

"Gladys, and Jennie, sister absorbed in watching the mass did not see what was happening but some other one else saw someone who from the moment when

9770.

the children had taken their seats had been watching the little girls intently though furtively from a pair of keen eyes which had not lost any of their keenness for all their owners hazardous experiences of life.

Some one has been unkind to her" said the man to himself in his own tongue, "how dare they make princess Jennie cry?" and he frowned so

9771

darkly and looked so very fierce that a small boy in a pew near by, paying 'more care', attention to everything else but the mass, felt sure the terrible man with the sharp eyes was (frown) frowning at him and he nestled close up to his mother and hid his face on her shoulder.

But when the offertory of the mass was reached

the strange sad feeling began to leave her. She remembered too all at once that her parents were probably attending that same mass though some distance away in Chicago, and the reflection seemed to bring her nearer to them.

A sense of peace and content stole unto her heart and by the time the sermon began she was her own bright

9775

and held out her hand to Jack Evans the eccentric Abreannan Baron who by now was known at least by sight to nearly every one present and who to the knowledge of every one present was the guardian and Cousin to the little Virian princesses.

"Good morning" she said quite as pleasantly and naturally as if she had been addressing a good friend. "I see you are here and I want

9776

to speak to you." Gladys at this moment heard the strange unaccountable sounds again and gasped. Even Sarah who had of course heard the story gave a slight start and instinctively put out her hand to draw Gladys away.

But Evans although he had not uttered a word had taken the child's hand and was holding it fast.

"I love to be with the Virians" Gladys went

9777

on innocently" have told them all about your goodness to me and what a nice time I had at Mr. Geermans "crazy" house the other day. I hope their house keeper is well to day.

"Would you like to come and see her again?" Evans inquired brusquely. He did not them look at Sarah but the eyes that rested on the two nearest little girls had nothing stern or

9778

stern in their express ion.

"Yes? I should like to very much" said Gladys without the least sign of hesitation.

"Very well come gone in spite of the evil spirits and dine with me soon. I'll see you get back to your French all right this afternoon."

"May I go Sarah?" she asked turning to the maid.

"I think perhaps" began the maid showing more signs

9779

of embarrassment
than were usual with
her, but Evans cut
her short.

"Youse neednt mak-
um ze object, as
youse have mudding
to said." he erupted
"ef ze (cheed) child
wants to come she
shall."

"As youse wish sir
of course" returned
Sarah beginning
to look offended
"Gladys being left
in my car
and Jim Went-
worth being away

9780

? thought-"
"Feedsteeks," inter-
upted Evans. "Do youse
want to come wiz
me child or not? We
agreed to 'odder day
that youse were not
afraid of Seesemanns
"crazy" house when
wiz me."

"I should like it"
said "that is" she added
blushing if the little
Marians and Sarah
dont mind."

"We dont mind"
said Jennie in a
flutter of excitement
"and Sarah does nt

9781

mind either she
only thinks she's
got to object.

So the matter was
settled as Sarah know-
ing what they were
was afraid to go against
the wishes of the
little Virian girls and
the congregation were
rendered almost
paralyzed with stu-
pefaction by the
sight of the eccentric
sic guardian of
the Virian girls
fighting in a place
the terror of all
the city of Chicago

7-21

9782

calmly walking
down the church walk
with Gladys and Jem-
mie clinging to his
left hand.

Paying no attention
to the sensation she
was causing Gladys
chattered away happily
to her companion
telling him about
the pleasant time
she was having
until just as they
were turning from
the street into
the avenue that
led to the S. stat-
ion Evans suddenly

7894

9783

interrupted Gladys
with a question to
Jennie.

"What were you cry-
ing for in church
Jennie?"

Jennie gave a little
start and the color
deepened in her cheeks.

"I'm sorry you saw
me" she said it
was very silly, but
I dont think I can ex-
plain it. There was
no reason that I could
see but I had a very
sad feeling as if
I had done some-
body a serious

9784

wrong when I didn't.
"What made you have
that feeling? Was it some
more of the demons
doing eh, all this way
from Resemann house
eh?" (in Abbemann)

"Oh no I don't think
so" cried Jennie ea-
gerly "I never do
believe the banshees
can reach this far,
but you see the
feeling did come
strangely - and
well - I couldn't
help it."

"By the way you
seem to be very

9785

fond of Gladys" continued Evans in
Abbearnian "she's
very good to you and
your sisters I hope?"

"Good to us" echoed
Jennie "she's the
very best friend
next to Marjorie,
and Sally in the
world. Why she
wants to take
care of us."

Are your father
and mother still
there in the Wenth-
worth house across
from Mr. Sees-
mans?"

9786

"Yes they're staying
there until we come
back"

"But you've got the
girls scouts there?"
yet I suppose"

"No they're still
on the ground floor
of Seesmans."

Jack Evans asked
no more questions
and Gladys herself
feeling suddenly
a little shy, and
uncomfortable re-
lapsed into silence.
Arriving at Sees-
mans after a long
journey Evans

9787

led his little guest
and Jemmie into the
parlor and once more
as on the occasion
of Gladys first visit,
he called loudly for
Mrs Jerry.

The house keeper
speedily made her
appearance and greet-
ed both little girls
warmly.

She seemed rather
nervous and flut-
tered and her voice
sounded so odd
and unsteady
that both little
girls were puzzled

9788

or it her
not smart-
dress.
one to look
to oppose-
d me
will have
I ac^s pretty;
kind
rate
ups you
h
g
in? no
it makes
f-had?
oc
v your
tat^{red}
way

9790

my governess does
when she has a
headache. that's all.
but I suppose I made
a mistake How very
nice you brush
my hair. do you
like little girls?"

"Indeed I do espe-
cially little girls like
you and the little
Clemans."

"Did you ever
know any other place
which was like Mr
Clemans house
here?" Gladys in-
quired with deep in-
terest and a little

9791

"How do you mean
like this place?"

"Why possessed by
spooks, demons, you
know."

The house-
keeper laid down her
brush but her hand,
still rested lovingly
on Gladys' soft curves.

"No" she said, and
Gladys was quite sure
there was a trem-
ble in her voice
now. "I never knew
any place like
Mr. Leesmans, but
Pernod's sisters
had known a house

8792

at Mc Call's Run in
Calvernia which was
very much like this
one."

"And just as bad?"

"Yes."

"Do you like the
Indian princesses
very much?" Gladys
asked softly. Some
thing in the house-
keeper's tone made
her feel sure that
there was some un-
seen danger facing
them in this 'crazy'
house.

"I think? I love
them better than?"

9793

have ever loved any
one else in this world.
I am their nurse
and I take care of
them always whether
in camp, here or
wherever they go.

With a sudden im-
pulse the old woman
stopped and drew
Gladys into her arms

"I love everyone
who likes the little
princesses and are
friends to them"

she said, and the
child could feel
(the child) the
hot tears on her

forehead.") thought
you would be a
good friend to them
the first time I
saw you and so did
Mr Jack Evans. I
think that is why
he asked you to come
here with him to
day for he loves
those little girls who
are his "cousins".

Gladys would have
liked very much
to ask where the
once "crazy" house
in California was,
but something
in the housekeeper

2293
mannie made her
sure something very
peculiar was going
on right in this place
and being a very tact-
ful child she
wisely decided to
ask no more quest-
ions but she kiss-
ed old Mrs Jerry
and stroked her
wrinkled face
and then the
house keeper dried
her tears and
they both went
down stairs again
They found
Jack warm and

2294
Jennie waiting in
the hall, and as din-
ner was already on
the table in the Viriam
safe room he gave
his arm ceremonious-
ly to both little
girls and led them
onto the dining room.
The dinner (not)
was a rather solemn
meal. Gladys felt
very small and
just a little bit
uncomfortable, when
she found herself
seated alongside
Jennie in the big
leather armchair.

9797

opposite her host
but she made a
great effort to appear
at her ease and
neither Mr Evans
who watched her so
keenly nor the sol-
emn butler Sebast-
ian noticed any-
thing beyond the
fact, that the
visitor was trying
to be as perfect
a little lady as
Gennie herself
was.

The dinner
itself was very
good and served

1128

in much more style
than Gladys was
accustomed to even
at her own home.

There was a good
many courses.

Evans did not talk
very much him-
self, but he seemed
to like to hear Gladys
talk, and the little
girl mindful of
her duties as a
visitor really did
her best to enter-
tain the grum silent
Abercromian whose
eyes seldom left
her face. Once or

twice she stopped thinking her host might prefer silence but he was sure to draw her out again by some adroit question so that before the dinner was over he had learned a good many things about Gladys and her life.

After dinner Evans took his little guest and Jennie out onto the piazza and in a few minutes he asked them if they would like to go out

into the garden to smell the spring flowers which he was succeeding in raising despite the banishes.

Gladys was delighted and Evans gave each little girl his arm again and led them away to what Gladys afterwards described to the other little Virgins as the most beautiful place she had ever seen in her life though she did

180

admit that the leaves
of the big Elm tree
did act mighty funny.

If Jack Evans had
one passion it was
his love for flowers.

He was always
gentle and more
like angelic people
when he was in
the garden.

He was very
delighted with Gladys
errulent admiration
of his favorites
and he led her
and Jennie from
bed to bed
letting her touch

180

and smell to her
hearts content and
Jennie who always
was also a favorite
of flowers told her
many interesting
things about the
different rare plants
which Evans didn't
know how to ex-
plain in English.

Altogether that
hour among the
flowers was a
very happy one and
when they returned
to the house Gladys
arms were loaded
with an enormous

1805

afraid of zis "crazy" ouze
zen?"

"no indeed, not one
single bit."

"And youse dont tank
zis place es a dan-
gerous as zay say eet
es, a child killer?
believe zat es ze
reputation eet has
among most of ze nei-
ghbors."

Gladys laughed.

"I think you and
also this house too
are as good as it
can be" she said"

I like you both
ever and ever

1806

so much.

Chapter 71

Gladys birth day.

Bad news from Seemanns
Grappin.

"Are you not going to
wake up soon Gladys,
you little sleepy head?
Its most seven o-
clock. We were up
since four as we could
nt sleep any more
and I and my sis-
ters came to wish
n you many happy
returns of the day"

Gladys opened her

9807

eyes and put out one hand in a sleepy uncertain way. The hand touched Gladys' soft round arm, and Gladys became aware of the fact that her friend, still in her night gown, was sitting on the edge of the bed.

"What's the matter?" she inquired drowsily "is - is it morning?"

"Yes of course and oh Gladys have you forgotten what day it is?"

9808

Gladys sat up with a start.

"Why is it ^{my} birthday" she said laughing? "remember now, but I was so sleepy I couldn't think of anything just at present. It seems only about ten minutes since I went to bed."

"It's ten hours" returned Gladys. We were in bed when the clock struck nine, and now its just striking seven. Go hurry up and get dressed. I want

9809

to show you your
presents. and they're
all down stairs."

"Presents?" exclaimed Gladys beginning a hasty search for her bath slippers. "you don't mean I'm really going to have presents do you?"

"Of course I do, doesn't every one have presents on birth days. It was awfully hard not to tell you about them last night when your papa came home."

9810

and brought them from the city. They're such nice ones I know you will like them."

There was no need of urging Gladys to hurry after that. She was every bit as eager to see the presents as Jennie was to show them and made such rapid progress that in less than half an hour, the two little girls were racing down the broad oak staircase, Gladys making almost

9811

as good speed as her friend this time.

"Here they are" cried Jennie as they entered the dining room all on the table by your plate. May I open them or do you want to do it yourself?"

Gladys thought she would like to do it herself and Jennie stood by curbing her impatience as best as she could while the little Irish girl with fingers that trembled with

9812

pleasant excitement untied the parcels.

"Oh" cried Gladys rapidly as she unfolded the soft tissue from around the largest of the four packages.

"It's a doll, such a beautiful one, with long hair and a silk dress, just like my old Virginia that I used to have in the South."

"I hats from mine" said Jennie triumphantly "I described your Virginia to your papa and he tried

18/3

to get one just as much like her as he could. You said she was your favorite you know and I thought you'd like to have another just like her. She's got a red silk dress on and her clothes all come off and on."

"Oh thank you so much!" said Gladys hugging her friend and her new treasure. At the same time it will be such fun to have her to play with when I'm by myself.

98/4

self all day. I can talk to her and pretend she's my child, that'll be even so much nicer than playing imaginary people."

"But you have not opened your other presents yet, this ones from your papa?"

"Why what is it?" exclaimed Gladys in a rather puzzled tone. "It's a sort of large round box but there is not any place to open it. Here's a little key. Oh Jennie

9865

I do believe it's a
music box"

"Yes of course it is.

I knew you'd love it.

I'll show you how to
wind it but let me
do it the first time.

I can do much quicker.

There, isn't it pretty?

Your papa brought
it, but I picked it
out and it's the
sweetest toned one
they had in the
store. There are
twenty five tunes
and you can
get more any
time you like."

9866

Gladys clasped
her hands in rapture
too intense for speech

"And here's somethin'
from Sarah. I know
what it is, for I saw
her making it. It's
a bag for you to
keep your kermitting
in, and it's awfully
pretty too. Now here's
another and it came
by express it must
be from your Aunt
Tim sure."

"It's a handker-
chief case and a
dozen and a half
nice new hand-

9877

kerchiefs" said Gladys touching the precious gift with loving fingers. Aunt Aggie must have made the case herself in the evening, wasnt it good of her. She does get so tired and its such hard work for her to do anything these spring nights. Oh dear Aunt Aggy how I wish I could give her a great big hug.

That certainly was a very delight-

ive ker a phonograph a handsome put them in? say by was a htful birth even had enth worth were satisfied hanks red and my own kind in the hen ab others nt could

not make Gladys sad for many minutes at a time.

"Gladys said Jennie coming out onto the piazza about an hour after breakfast "Did you tell Jack Evans about to day being your birth day?"

"Yes" said Gladys pausing for a moment in the letters she was writing to her mother and Aunt. "He asked me how old I was and I said I

9819

would be ten today"

"I wonder if he'll send you a present?" remarked Angelene herself sitting on a chair preparing to knit a pattern for her pillow. "I think perhaps he will, he's so fond of you."

"Oh no" said Gladys "I'm sure he won't."

don't believe he even remembers.

I told him about it."

"Well he's awfully fond of you any way" persisted

9820

Angeline: He asked you to dinner not supper last Friday and Saturday he took you for a drive and yesterday he sent you all those lovely flowers. Sarah and Sizzie were talking about it, and said he's getting to like you as he loves me and my dear sisters.

"But," added Violet dolefully "Sizzie heard rumors that the Octopus must be losing out in

9821

his work at Leesemann Grapkin house?" "Oh dear? I hope he is not" said Gladys beginning to look distressed. "What makes Sizie think so?"

"Why because his helpers say there must be something queer the matter with the place. We should not have left it. It's getting worse. Oh here comes the express wagon. perhaps its another present for you"

9822

"I guess not" said Gladys smiling though she still looked troubled. "There is not any one else to send me one."

"It's a great big package anyway" announced Violet with interest. "I'm just going to see who it for, and I hope it's you."

She darted off but was back again in less than a minute crying excitedly: "It's for you Gladys"

9823

it really is. I saw
your name Gladys Went-
worth on the paper.
Oh do come quick and
lets see what it is."

Down went paper
and pencil and away
flew Gladys to the
front hall where
Suzie the waitress
was already untie-
ing the cord from
around the myster-
ious parcel.

"Why its books"
cried Violet as
her sisters came
up "great big
books the kind

2824

you like Gladys they
are that kind. I see
the decorations on the
covers."

With a joyful cry
the Wentworth Went-
worth child sprang
forward and the next
moment she was
down on the floor
hugging three large
brickly volumes in
a rapturous embrace.
"One of them is 'little
women'" she gasped.
the book I've been
wanting, for so long
and that Auntly was
going to get for me

9825

when I returned
home "Oh I'm so good
and happy"

"Do you suppose
she sent it?" Violet
inquired To her looks
also was very in-
teresting articles
but nevertheless she
was a little sur-
prised at Gladys
de-light over the
present.

"No I'm sure she
didn't she wouldn't
have sent it here
and besides she
sent the hand-
kerchiefs and case"

9826

"Who do you suppose
did send them then?"

"I think I'm almost
sure that it was your
great Cousin Jack
Evans, I told him
how I loved reading
and the kind of
books I like best Oh
how good how awfully
good he is." And to
the amazement of
Suzie and the little
Vernon the little
Wentworth child
burst into tears.

"Oh please don't mind
me" she sobbed
half crying and

9827

half laughing? know
I'm dreadfully silly
but oh I do love books
so and to have this
one I've been want-
ing for so long its
all - just like a
dream"

"I suppose you'd like
to go to the city
and thank Mr
Evans for his pre-
sent?" said Sarah
coming into Gladys
room later in

the morning Gladys
who was kneel-
ing beside the
bed turning the

9828

pages of her new
book turned around
with a start.

"I should like it
very much indeed"
she said eagerly "I
didn't like ask you
to take me back -
because I thought
you were busy."

"Well I guess I
can take you now
you've been un-
usually good since
you are with those
little saints. You
won't want to stay
long I suppose"

"Oh no, just only

9829

to thank him.

I'm sure he might have sent me the book, he, the only person who knew anything about my wanting it. You see

Sarah said she thought it very probable, especially as Mr Evans had already shown a desire to be very kind, and in a few minutes they were on their way to Chicago on the Evanston Express

9830

Gladys had asked Jennie to accompany them but she declined the invitation saying she would rather hear about it when Gladys came back.

The front door of these mans crazy house was opened by the solemn faced butler Sebastian, who in answer to Sarahs inquiry replied that Evans had gone to St Patricks Church, but was expected home

9882

all that
ours and
twelve
be at
erty
lunch"

seed
atisfied
germent
her -
ley
sofa
ed pro-
turn

cool
t. un
am
2 adays

9833

found the contrast
to the warm April
sunshine out of doors
very refreshing.

She leaned in
her corner of the big
comfortable and gave
herself up to pleo-
nant reflections.

How good every
one was to her,
how delighted her
mother would
be when she heard
about little 'Prudy'
what a beautiful
birth day she
was having.

She was glad

9834

now that she had
been able to persuade
the little Vermans
to stay another week
at Evanston as her
W. father begged
them instead of going
back to the 'Crazy'
house on her birth-
day, as had been
the original plan.

It was only two
weeks not hardly
yet to say, un-
till the first of
May and Mrs
Winthrop had fully
insisted that things
at Sesemann's 'Crazy'

9835

house was said to
be slackening down.

Mrs Scott had
brought (bel) back glow-
ing accounts of the
hope concerning Mr
Gesemann's house.

Where on return Vio-
let and her sis-
ters had decided to
remain for a
fortnight. Oh how
delightful every-
thing was going
to be and how
very happy she
was.

Gladys wonder-
ed if many

9836

other little girls
were quite as happy as
she. These pleasant
reflections were sud-
denly checked by the
sound of approaching
footsteps and voices.

Jack Evans had
returned, and was
speaking to some
one whom he evi-
dently found wait-
ing for him.

"No I tell youse
no, eet can't be
done, eet ees mo
usea' to me to
heah, an odder word
on ze subject" was

9837

the first sentence which reached Gladys' ears and there was no doubt that Mr Evans was really excited about something this time. He continued "Ze 'crazy' bruse is more dangerous than ever. No man will be allowed to live near ze deerstreet. I tell you."

At his last words the little girl started nervously and drew further back into

9852

her corner with a little irrepressible shiver. Then another voice "Woman's voice was heard.

"But youse wont be afther making us go to day while me little Nelly and Johnnie so sauck they caunt laire their beds, and me that were out sitting up all night that its all I can do to hold me head up at all. "Well youse rather be ze ass or ze beeg

9840

"fool" thundered Jack Evans. "I ave told you before zat meestaire Seeserman, ouze ees very dangerous, and by ze law no wan ees allow to live een ze meeberhood, so I weel not less-ten to an odder woid. Mees Scott say she weel or-der ze meen ta take away your furniture zis very afternoon to ze odder place, and sent youse usg zem, ze

9841

een dangeered cottage ees to be cleared of your belongings be fore to night. I ave warned youse too man times already. Youse wont be able to stan cry more shiftless shilly-shallying ways of ze demons. "And then'll what will become of us" wailed the woman beginning to cry. "Oh Master Evans think of it me a wider woman with five little children, and no

9842

place to lay our
hands and Johnnie and
Nellie so sick. You
know we always were
never afraid of ban-
shees, but what with
the children's clothes
we areing out and the
washing coming
in so slow, oh Mis-
ter Evans, "dear" -

But already
the front door had
closed with a
bang, and Evans
steps were no-
tidiy approach-
ing the parlor.
"Halloo" exclaimed

9843

The Abreannia gen-
tleman catching sight
of his little visitors
as he entered the
room. "So you are
come to see ze
Abreannian man
again are you?" At
the sight well how
goes it een ze world
to day?"

Gladys, full of
had risen and
came slowly for-
wards. She was
very quiet and all
the bright look of
happiness had
gone suddenly out

9844

8885

of her face.

"I came to thank you" she said, for the books you know. I am sure you sent them."

Mr Evans laugh-
ed and he took Gladys
little hand in his.

"Well suppose I did?
What of it? do
you like them?"

"Oh so very much.
better than any-
thing else you
possibly could
have given me"

"Well now what
is good, what

ees ze mat though?
youse look as if you
was someding youse
didn't like, b'as any
body been mak-
ing youse cry again?
Only let me found
out what let ees
and tell" —

"No oh no sir" in-
terrupted Gladys
with crimsoning
cheek - its nothing
at all - that is no-
body has done
anything wrong
to me only I
am so very sorry
for that poor woman?

"What poor n' mes scot's board
 "The woman house and the
 talking to or authorities are
 Please dont lade ze orders 3 at
 about it, but zare softly every
 nt help he odi are to move
 what you say from ze dees-
 and she set of ze ouse say
 to be in suz crazy
 ful trouble. V eetee ctive Boins

Mr Evans told me 3 at
 silent for a and her fam-
 ment, and y are gat to
 looking outick out zis very
 window did lay and 3ay mean
 see the ex phat 3ay suay
 ion on his ten two keels are
 Then he been almost keeled
 slowly an by ze miserable

shift less demons
 already"

Gladys said nothing
 but the blue eyes were
 full of tears and she
 kept her lips drawn
 tight to keep from
 quivering Mr Evans
 saw the tears and
 he tapped his foot
 impatiently on the
 carpet

"Not satis fied yet
 eh? Well what would
 youse like me to
 did, to have me
 to done?"

"She said her
 little boy and

985.0

"girl were sick" said Gladys softly.
"And there were five little children. Where will they go to when they have to leave your house?"

"My house? Any are not at my house.
but at Mrs. Scotts."

Gladys surely those people have plenty of friends to take

them. Any way let less none affair of ours.

Now sit down and tell me all about these wonderful

985.0

"birthday presents."

Gladys sat down and began an account of the morning's pleasures but the glad sound had gone out of her voice and more than once she had to pause in her story in order to steady that trouble some little catch in her voice.

Mr. Evans watched her with a troubled look when Gladys had finished furnished describing the birthday presents there

9852

was a rather long pause Gladys found it necessary to wink rather hard to keep back the rebellious tears which every moment threatened to overflow.

Suddenly Jack Evans put out his hand and laid it on the little curly head beside him.

"I'm glad you like the books" he said and there was actually a note of something

9838

an assment in his voice "I es not accust to maken birthday presents to young ladies and I dont know always war what es most accep table. I did geet ye book because you seem to threink you might like to have it but - well ye fact es I wan to give youse some-thing else besides"

"Something else besides" repeated Gladys in a tone of bewilderment

9854

"Oh no Mr Evans
indeed I shouldn't
like to have you
give me anything
more. The book is
beautiful and I
shall just love reading
it but -"

"Never mind about
the books? are
made up to mind
to give you some-
thing else besides
and I'd like to
have you tell
me what it
shall be."

Gladys hesitated
for a moment

9854

then her cheeks
flushed and a light
of sudden hope
came into her face.

"Do you really mean
you would
like to have me
tell you what I'd
rather have than
anything else?" she
asked.

"I generally mean
what?" said
"Then" she said
slowly "I would like
better than anything
else, yes better
than anything
you could possibly

9856

buy for me that
you would tell the
little princesses
and ask them to
let that poor wom-
an and her little
children stay in
their own house,
instead of miss
Scott's boarding
house."

Gladys paused.
She was almost
afraid to hear
Ewan answer
but when she
saw the ex-
pression in
the eyes looking

2857

down upon her
she was not any
more afraid. There
was a moments
silence then Ewan
laughed.

"Oh the relief
to Gladys in the
sound of that laugh

"Well you are
caught now sure you
are got your wish"
he said patting
Gladys head and
not without stand-
ing the fact that
he was laugh-
ing his voice
was not quite

9858

steady I ave geiven
my promise and
youse ave caught
me in ze map. I'll
see zem and see
ef zayll let
ze woman stay
on z are ouse un-
til ze trouble een
selemann ouse
een over".

"Oh" said Gladys
and there was no
need of another
word her radiant
face was quite en-
ough to convince
Jack Evans of
her gratitude.

9858

"and can we go now
and convince Mrs
Gammer she is to
have a new horn"
said Gladys a few
minutes later "She
must be so dread-
fully worried and
unhappy you know"
"Perhaps she may
be hanging about
some where" said
Evans hoping ? might
be induced to change
my mind I'll go
and have a look".

He left the room
bit very soon re-
turned with the

9860

information that
Mr. O'Connor had
gone home. The butler
had seen her walk-
ing down the street
crying as she went.

Gladys began to
look distressed.

"Oh couldn't you
send some one
to tell her?" she
said eagerly. "She's
so unhappy and
suppose the men
should come
to move away
her things
before she knew
she was going

9860

to live with the little
Varians.

Evans glanced at the
clock.

"I'll tell youse what
we weel do" he said.
Youse shall go and
tell her y ourself.
Get ees all your
dowry at 3 at and
she might as weel
know eet? ees
not much eom
ze habit of chang-
ing ze mind
about dem things
mee self. I weel
order ze trap and
drive y ourse down

9863

e to a stand
ving the reins
room who
nd, sprang
und and
adys from
seat.

a rather
noceeding
part of the
Jack Evans
calling on
Miss Scott
for the
of inform
her that
right go
ve with
as violet.

9864

and her sisters
rent free for as long
as possible, and
perhaps the very
novelty of it caused
the Abbé ammonian
Baron to quite en-
joy the sensation.

He led Gladys
up a narrow path
bordered with clothes
lines and knocked
at the door of
the building which
was opened after
a short delay

by Mrs O'connor
herself. A very
tidy looking

9865

person she was and
yet by her appearance
there was perhaps
some very good rea-
son for Jack Evans
not wanting her
to take a chance
living too close
to Mr Geemann
house but her
eyes were red from
crying and there
was no doubt as
to the fact of her
being in real
trouble.

At sight of her
visitors the woman
started back with

9866

an exclamation of
dismay.

"Well meeser Connors"
began Evans who
never wasted time
in unnecessary
words. "There's nothin'
needle Gladys went
worth am she as
come to tell youse
what youse may
stay neent free
in ze house
of ze preencesses
until ze craze
ouse ees cleared
out."

The woman
clasped her hands

9862

and burst into a
rather incoherent tor-
rent of gratitude and
blessings in the very
midst of which
Evans cut her short.

"There's nothing
to thank me for,"
he said in his
harsh abrupt voice.
"If ze mat nested
wuz ze ceety auth-
orities youse all would
would have packed
out of here zis
afternoon unzoud.
Ze chance to find
an odder place
first but I prom-

9863

wished this young
lady a birth day
present, and she
took it into her
head to request
that youse am you're
family should
be allow to room
in ~~the~~ quarters
of ~~the~~ princesses
until after ~~the~~
Seeserman house
is cleared.

The torrent of
Mrs Commer's grat-
itude was immed-
ately turned
up on Gladys.
"May the saints

9864

of Heaven bless
bless you for a dear
sweet little lady
and may you ne
never know the
touch of sorrow
yourself, and its
praying for you
we'll all lie this
very night. In another
month the ban-
sheer may be gone
away for good. You
ve scared us all
and poor little
Johns and Nell so
sick I could never
get them out of
bed however hard

9865

"I tried"
"3 are, 3 at weel do eet"
interrupted Evans
we are no more
time to heah 3e
more, weel lets
come along Gladys".

(After) "And I wouldn't
you be after step-
ping inside just
to have a look
at poor little John-
nie and Nell."

said Mrs Connor
"They're awfully
sick poor little
children. The others
is all out play-
ing in the

9866

park."

"No thank you"
said Evans shortly.
"I ees not fond of 3e
seek children when
3ay ees strangers."

He was drawing
Gladys away but
the child hesitated.

"Dont you think
I might go in for a
moment" she whis-
pered "I t might
please Mrs Connor
and I'd like to see
the poor little girl
and boy".

"Very weel do as
youse like only

9867

don't stay too long
lets "nearly lunch
time."

"Heah Mrs Connors
zis young ladie
would like to
say ze word to
you bye and go.
She een a friend
of ze Leedle Vee-
lans no be
cheerful she een
not hoit"

Gladys accom-
panied the Irish
woman into
the house and
up the steep
narrow stairs into

7868

a tiny bedroom which
was to the child very
hot and close.

"Oh Johnnie and
Nellie darlings be-
gan Mrs Connors
as they entered the
room "here is a
swat beautiful
little lady come to
see you. And its
a friend of the
little Vilians she
is, good friend of
those poor brave
little craiters, and
never a bit afraid
of the banshees
is she. But shes

1869

come with good news
to us this day for
its Mr Jack Evans
thats brought her
and we aint to be
torned out but to
go to live with the
little Virrians for
another month
and by that time
the banshees
will be driven
out. Aint that fine
news chidders."

The only ans-
wer was a faint
fretful moan
from Johnnie
and the demand

in a faint childish
whisper
"Gimme a drink"
"Oh Johnnie" remon-
strated the mother
"you do be cursing
for drinks every
minute all day.
So much cold water
aint good for little
boys."

"I'm awfully dry
oh mammy do
give me a drink
even if its hot
milk"

"Poor little boy"
said Gladys pityingly
"I dont believe

9871

it will
and it's
dreadful to
thirsty."

Mrs Gladys stood
the room which
went down
some in
Gladys g
the north
Johnnie.
("Well be
for the
child has
to cry
made
to the

9873

it hurts all over;
"What hit and choke-
ed you?"

"The inside of the
Seerman house"

"I'm so sorry" said Gladys stroking
one of the little
hot hands which
lay outside the
sheet "I guess you'll
feel better soon. Here
comes your mother with a nice
drink for you"

Johnnie sat up
and held out
his hand for
the glass. His

9874

mother carried him
when he had drain-
ed its contents to a
gush. He sank back on
the pillow with a
moan.

"I'm afraid he's very
sick" said Gladys
anxiously "Have you
had a doctor to see
him?"

"Not yet but I do
have one this afternoon
if he isn't better
Dr Brown will
come if I send one
of the children for
him. He's a good
man and very

9875

kind to poor people.
Maybe I'd better
be taking you down
again now for fear
Mister Evans would
be waiting for you."

"Yes, I guess I'd
better go good bye
Iphne; I sincerely
hope you'll be
ever so much
better to-morrow."

"I never did seem
nothing so sudden
in all my life."

said Mrs O Con-

nor as she led

Gladys down stairs.

"He was inside"

9826

the crazy house yes-
terday morning
and it was only last
~~(night)~~ night as
he was took like
this all in a min-
ute. Said he was
choked and struck
down by some
thing unseen and
thrown (it) unto
a briar bush.
(It was the Elm tree that
got him.)

"How old is he?"
Gladys inquired
with interest.
Eight going on
nine and a

9872

some big bye for
his age. He never
had a day of sick-
ness since he was
bairn. I dont under-
stand what's the
mather wid him
at all.

Maybe the bar-
sheer did some-
thing to him.
"I hats what o'm
afraid of" said
the mother.

Evans was
waiting rather
impatiently and
he hurried Gladys
into the taxi-
cab cutting

9873

short. Mrs O'Conner
fare well hope that
the 'swait little angel
would have double
joy in Heaven. He
did appear very much
interested in Johnnie
and Nell. As Gladys
told him all about
the poor little sick
children whose
heads felt so hot
and the boy who
kept asking for
drinks every min-
ute.

He was very kind
and he drove her
all the way home.

9879

instead of stopping at his own place in Evanston and leaving her to go back with Sarah

"Good buy and thank you a hundred million times" said Gladys.

As her friends lifted her down from the running board of the auto at the Wentworth front door. "I really think this is the lowest birth day I ever had. I wish I could

give you something you've made me so awfully awfully happy." "Give me a kiss then" said the abbrevian Banon suddenly bending down to a level with Gladys "that's about as good as anything else I guess."

Next moment Gladys arms were around his neck.

"Oh dear kind Mr Evans" she cried kissing him heartily "I can't tell even tell how happy you've made

7881

me and how much
I thank you."

"It was the first time
in his life that Evans
had felt the touch of
an American child's
arms or of an Ameri-
can child's lips.

"Why what's the
matter with you
this afternoon
Gladys you sure
don't seem one
bit interested
in anything"

Evans tone was
decidedly im-
patient and Gladys

7882

who had been ly-
ing back on a large
easy chair with closed
eyes hastened to
assume a more up-
right position.

"I'm sorry prince
I was stupid" she
said apologetically
I didn't mean to be
but I guess it's be-
cause all those awful
strange noises in
my room kept me
awake last night
and I couldn't
sleep."

"I believe you've
been asleep most

9883

of the time this
after moon "Pennod
went on still unmole-
tified "and my sister
Jennie has been read-
ing you such a nice
story too. I think

"Majore's Guest is one
of the most in-
teresting books in
the world"

"It is a lovely
story" Gladys as-
serted blushing -
ing "but I'm
afraid I did fall
asleep for a
few minutes. I've
been sleepy all

9884

day as I couldn't
get any sleep nearly
all night. - Strange
noise and funny
things happened and
when I woke up my
bed was not where
it had been when I
got into it.

"What?" cried Pen-
rod.

Gladys repeated
what she had
said.

"I can't tell Sarah
about it or she'll
make you come
back to Chicago.
I'm sorry and

9885

suspicious you
had all that trouble
perhaps your visits
to Seesmans house
is causing the
enrile to follow you
here.

" I know strangely
as it was it was
pretty noisy in
the house last
night. It was
pretty bad at
two o'clock this
morning" de-

clared Jennie.

I didn't hardly
mind it " said
Gladys as Jennie

9888

looked strange going the day after
Pennod "It is to morrow" inged
teresting than Jennie "we're only
as it was. I got one more day
not scared to be together for
badly am we have to renew
But I'm at our fight or less -
out now for man's house. Do come
sleep and I'll get your hat and
thing around? know the nice
in here cool air on the beach
now feels well get some of
and guess the sleepiness
"I guess the out of you and you'll
are perten. feel better"
you ? feel All right so out
way the Gladys getting out
time I er of the chan
Seesmans and wondering vagus

9889

why every exertion
seemed to create
such strange noises
at a distance.

It was two days
since Gladys' birth day
and on two more
the little girl
was to return to
her city home next
week and she
and her parents
were to start on
that delightful trip
to the mount-
ains.

Gladys was very
happy and yet
even since the

1880

morning when she
first felt that little
uncomfortable chill
running up and down
her spine the cause
of strange unaccount-
able noises mean
and fun where ever
she went, even
the thought of the
pleasant times in
store for her had
seemed to make
her feel tired and
jerky all over.

Dennie ran into
the house for the
hats returning
in a few moments.

9891

By Sarah and the
three started in the
direction of the beach.

"Dont you feel well
to day Gladys?" Sarah
inquired rather sus-
piciously. She could
not help noticing
how slowly her
little charge was walk-
ing and what a
listless tired expres-
sion had replaced
the radiant one on
her face.

"Oh I'm all right
thank you" said
said Gladys? I guess
I didn't sleep enough

9891

last night but that's
all"

Sarah said nothing
and they had nearly
reached the lane which
led down to the beach
when the sound of
approaching wheels caused
Jennie to turn her
head and exclaim in
a tone of interest.
"It's our Guardian Jack
Evans in his dog-
cart perhaps he'll
ask you to take a
drive with him."

In another mom-
ent the black(mot
blue) horse

9893

had come to a stop
and Evans' loud voice
was calling:-

"Halloo Gladys want
to come for a drive?"

Gladys looked doubtful
but Jemmie with
most unusual un-
selfishness hast-
ened to set her
friends at rest
by whispering

"Go if you want
to, I don't mind
the best
of men to get
as a friend."

So Gladys smiled
and accepted the

9894

invitation and in less
than two minutes the
little Irish girl had
been lifted into the
high besides Jack Evans
and the black horse
was carrying them
over the ground at a
pace which might
have frightened some
little girls but
which seemed very
delightful to Gladys
to whom the sensa-
tion of fear was
almost an unknown
experience.

"Well and what
have you been

9895

doing with yourself lately?" Evans inquired as they turned into or from the main lane into a more shady street where the air felt cooler and more refreshing. Gladys sweat covered her head.

"Oh I've been having a lovely time" said Gladys trying to speak in her usual cheerful tone but finding it something of an effort. "Jennie and

9895

I went with her brother and sisters for a long drive with the pony this morning and yesterday we had a grand picnic dinner on the beach. I have not seen you for ever so long I was wondering where you were."

"Did you really? Well now that's flattering for an older woman like me young ladies in this country don't as you rule trouble themselves to worry about me

6/16

or the leetle Ucians
or to care what be-
comes of us either.)
had to go to the city
or the craze over bus-
iness and as I'm
not fond of travel-
ing I said "I am
united yet was been-
with, I no like
what everytheeng
look like (eez) een
that house eet ees
getting very very
bad." I only came
back last night.
"I'm going home
the day after to
morrow," said

6/16

Gladys.

Mr Evans frowned,
"Going home are you?
Where home?"

"Why in Chicago with
my parents?"

"You can't go to Chicago
in the coming of
this summer what's
worth worth theenk-

ing to let y ouse
do such a thing?"

"Oh but I've made
a very long visit
already" said Gladys
earnestly "Besides
I'm not going to
stay in Chicago
now next week."

4897

my mother and I
are going away to a
beautiful place in Cal-
ifornia".

"And when are you
comin' back heah?
I shoulda likea to
know?"

"Oh I dont know!"
said Gladys smil-
ing "Not before
next summer any
way. We live in
Chicago in winter
you know."

"Gooka heah" said
Evans with sud-
den decision "Is
wont do at ze

all youse gotta come
back and make me
ze weesit"

Gladys was very
much flattered.
"Would you really
like to have me?"
she asked.

"I dont neely ask
ze people how would
youse like to come
and live wuz ze
leedle Verram al-
together eh?"

Evans asked this
startling question
in just the same
tone in which
he might have

were fewer. The
brick building was three
stories high and
from north south
to east surrounded
by factory build-
ing, and two
schools. The lot
on the street side
was enclosed by
fence.

On the north and
south side of
the rear porch
set just off the
building were
stairs cases. These
were wooden.

stacks at west end
of lot north and
south.